

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PPT-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 L-03 VO-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 /084 W

----- 044866

R 041011Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

SECSTATE WASHDC 6857

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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KUWAIT ALSO FOR BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: ALLENBY BRIDGE CROSSINGS

REF: TEL AVIV 0838 (NOTAL)

1. IN LAST FEW MONTHS GOJ HAS GENERALLY TIGHTENED UP ADMINISTRATION OF ITS REGULATIONS CONCERNING ALLENBY BRIDGE CROSSINGS.

ANSWERS TO YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FOLLOW:

2. VISAS MAY BE OBTAINED AT ANY JORDANIAN EMBASSY. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY MFA THAT FOR AMERICANS VISAS ARE USUALLY GRANTED IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS. NEAREST COUNTRIES TO ISRAEL AT WHICH GOJ MAINTAINS EMBASSIES ARE EGYPT, IRAN, IRAQ, ITALY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KUWAIT, ABU DHABI, ALGERIA, BAHRAIN, LEBANON, MOROCCO, OMAN,

PAKISTAN, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, SPAIN, SYRIA, TUNISIA, TURKEY
(ANKARA ONLY-NOTHING IN ISTANBUL). ALSO THERE ARE EMBASSIES
IN LONDON, PARIS, BERN AND BONN.

3. GOJ REGULATIONS REQUIRE A VISA TO ENTER VIA THE BRIDGE.
WE HAVE HEARD OF MANY CASES, HOWEVER, OF AMCITS SHOWING-UP
AT BRIDGE WITHOUT A VISA AND BEING ALLOWED TO ENTER. TRAVELLERS
SHOULD NOT COUNT ON THIS HOWEVER.

4. RECENT CONTACTS WITH MIN OF INTERIOR AND MIN OF TOURISM
INDICATE BRIDGE CROSSING REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE EASED. WE
KNOW FROM PAST EXPERIENCE THAT THE GOJ GOES THRU CYCLES OF
EASING AND TIGHTENING ADMINISTRATION OF BRIDGE CROSSING
REGULATIONS. BEST ADVICE IS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET
ALL REQUIREMENTS. WE ARE CURRENTLY IN A PERIOD OF TIGHT
ADMINISTRATION AND HAVE BEEN FOR 2-3 MONTHS.

5. GOJ REGULATIONS PROHIBIT TRAVELLERS FROM RETURNING TO WEST
BANK IF THEY ENTERED JORDAN FROM WEST BANK. WE KNOW OF CASES
IN WHICH SPECIAL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED FOR A ROUND TRIP
BUT THEY ARE HANDLED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND THERE
IS NO GUARANTEE THAT PERMISSION WILL BE GRANTED. THE
CONSOFF IS AWARE OF TWO RECENT INSTANCES IN WHICH PERMISSION
WAS REFUSED. TRAVELLERS SHOULD NOT EXPECT TO BE ABLE
TO RETURN TO WEST BANK IF THEY ENTER JORDAN FROM THERE.

6. OUR EXPERIENCE , THAT ISRAELI AUTHORITIES WILL NOT RPT NOT
STAMP U.S. PASSPORTS AT THE BRIDGE IF REQUESTED. SINCE THE GOJ
DOES NOT CONSIDER THE BRIDGE AS A PORT OF ENTRY NO RPT NO STAMPS
ARE PLACED IN PASSPORTS BY THE GOJ AUTHORITIES AT THE BRIDGE. ONE
CAN THEREFORE ENTER JORDAN WITH A CLEAN PASSPORT. WE CAN ISSUE
SECOND PASSPORTS FOR TRAVELLERS ENTERING FROM THE WEST BANK WHO
HAPPEN TO HAVE HAD THEIR PASSPORTS STAMPED BY
ISRAELI AUTHORITIES. THIS OFTEN HAPPENS AT TEL AVIV AIRPORT
WHERE THE ISRAELI'S ARE APPARENTLY LESS AWARE OF THE NEED
FOR AVOIDING ISRAELI STAMPS. TRAVELLERS CAN RPT CAN ENTER
JORDAN FROM THE WEST BANK WITH AN ISRAELI STAMP IN THEIR
PASSPORT BUT WILL NOT RPT NOT BE ABLE TO TRAVEL TO ANOTHER
ARAB COUNTRY WITH THAT PASSPORT AND WILL PROBABLY HAVE
TROUBLE DEPARTING JORDAN EVEN FROM THE AMMAN AIRPORT AS
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THE GOJ DOES NOT WANT TO PLACE A DEPARTURE STAMP IN A
PASSPORT CONTAINING AN ISRAELI STAMP.

7. AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH PARA SIX OF REFTTEL.
PICKERING

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